



Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy

Member of Staff Responsible	Chief Executive Officer
Relevant guidance/advice/legal reference	Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015
Approved by	The 3-18 Education Trust Board
Date of Policy	January 2022
Review Cycle	1 year
Date of Next Review	January 2023
Website	Yes

This policy is divided into two sections.

Section 1 is common to all schools in The 3-18 Education Trust

Section 2 refers to the detail of how the policy is implemented at school.

Legislation and Statutory guidance

In March 2015, new statutory duties were placed on schools by the Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015) which means they must work to prevent children being drawn into extremism. The full Government Prevent Strategy can be viewed at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97976/prevent-strategy-review.pdf

This policy draws on both statutory and non-statutory guidance:

Statutory Duties

- Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2022)
- Prevent Duty Guidance (2015)
- Working together to Safeguard Children (2018)

Non-statutory Guidance

- The Prevent Duty: Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers (DfE 2015)
- Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools: Departmental advice for maintained school (DfE 2014)
- Improving the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of pupils: supplementary information (DfE 2014)

Introduction

This 'Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy' is part of our commitment to keeping children safe. All staff working in The 3-18 Education Trust recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility irrespective of the role they undertake or whether their role has direct contact or responsibility for students or not.

When operating this policy, The 3-18 Education Trust uses the following Governmental definition of extremism which is:

'Vocal or active opposition to fundamental British Values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs; and/or calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas'. Radicalisation is defined by the UK Government within this context as "the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups."

Other related policies/procedures within the Trust and/or schools which may be relevant are:

- E safety Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Equality Policy
- Relationships, Sex and Health Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Visitors Procedures
- Whistle-blowing Policy
- Lettings Procedures

At The 3-18 Education Trust we recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes for students and so should be addressed as a safeguarding concern as set out in this policy. We also recognise that if we fail to challenge extremist views, we are failing to protect our students.

Section 1: common to all schools -

1. Roles and responsibilities

1.1 Role of the Trust Board and Local Governing Body

It is the role of the Trust Board and Local Governing Body to ensure that the school meets its statutory duties with regard to preventing radicalisation.

1.2 Role of the Headteacher

It is the Headteacher's role to:

- ensure that the school and its staff respond to preventing radicalisation on a day-to-day basis.
- ensure that the school's curriculum addresses the issues involved in radicalisation.
- ensure that staff conduct is consistent with preventing radicalisation.
- report to the Local Governing Body on these matters, through discussions with the link governor on safeguarding.

1.3 Role of Designated Safeguarding Lead(s)

It is the role of the safeguarding lead(s) to:

- ensure that staff understand the issues of radicalisation, are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability of radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns.
- receive safeguarding concerns about children and young people who may be vulnerable to the risk of radicalisation or are showing signs of radicalisation.
- make referrals to appropriate agencies with regard to concerns about radicalisation.
- liaise with partners, including the local authority and police.
- offer support and advice to staff.

1.4 Role of staff

It is the role of all staff to understand the issues of radicalisation, be able to recognise signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know to refer concerns to the designated lead promptly.

1.5 Curriculum and teaching approaches: See Section 2 for further details

At The 3-18 Education Trust we will promote the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs. We will teach and encourage pupils to respect one another and to respect and tolerate difference, especially those of a different faith or no faith. It is indeed our most fundamental responsibility to keep our students safe and prepare them for life in modern multi-cultural Britain and globally.

1.6 IT

At The 3-18 Education Trust we will ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in school by having secure filters which will block inappropriate content.

Pupils and staff are aware of the procedures in school for reporting any concerns relating to inappropriate content found on the internet.

1.7 Staff training

Statutory guidance refers to the importance of Prevent awareness training to equip staff to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism and to challenge extremist ideas. Staff training takes place at school level.

Staff are aware of the signs of vulnerability and indicators of radicalisation and extremism as set out in **Appendix 1**. Our schools also have a risk assessment which is available upon request.

The National Counter Terrorism Policing Headquarters in conjunction with the College of Policing have developed a general awareness e-learning package for *Channel* (an online package referenced by the Home Office). Staff at The 3-18 Education Trust are aware of this training and that students we have concerns about can be referred to it.

1.8 Working in partnership

We will work in partnership with local partners, families and communities in our efforts to raise awareness of radicalisation and supporting us with implementing the Prevent Duty.

The 3-18 Education Trust will engage effectively with parents/families to assist and advise of support mechanisms if concern is raised.

The 3-18 Education Trust will ensure that safeguarding arrangements take into account the policies and procedures of Shropshire Safeguarding Partnership.

1.9 Use of external agencies and speakers

At The 3-18 Education Trust we encourage the use of external agencies or speakers to enrich the experiences of our pupils. We will ensure that any visitor coming into the school has been 'checked' appropriately in accordance with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022. Such vetting is to ensure that we do not unwittingly use agencies that contradict each other with their messages or that are inconsistent with, or are in complete opposition to, the Trust school's values and ethos.

2. Referral process

If a member of staff has a concern about a particular pupil/s they should follow the school's normal safeguarding procedures, including discussing with the school's designated safeguarding lead as set out in the Child Protection policy.

The designated lead should contact West Mercia Prevent Team (relevant at the time of writing):

Sgt Calum Forsyth – 07970 047227

DC Holly Aungiers – 01386 591815

The Prevent Team email is:

prevent@warwickshireandwestmercia.pnn.police.uk

3. Monitoring and review

Headteachers will actively evaluate the effectiveness of this policy by monitoring the staff group's understanding and application of the procedures within this policy as their overall duty to safeguard children.

Section 2:

Curriculum and teaching

We will ensure that all of our teaching approaches help our pupils build resilience to extremism and give pupils a positive sense of identity through the development of critical thinking skills. We will ensure that all our staff are equipped to recognise extremism and are skilled and confident enough to challenge it.

We will strive to eradicate the myths and assumptions that can lead to some young people becoming alienated and disempowered, especially where the narrow approaches children may experience may make it harder for them to challenge or question these radical influences. We are also keen to dispel the myth that extremism and radicalisation is attached to one faith or religion and should not solely focus on Islam as a range of beliefs which promotes extremism. Please refer to the PSHE Policy. The following are covered:

- Prevent Extremism (Y7)
- Radical Groups (Y7)
- Religious Toleration (Y7)
- Racism (Y7)
- Diversity (Y9)
- Immigration (Y9)
- Refugees (Y9)
- Right Wing Extremism (Y10)

Several form sessions include content relating to Prevent and British Values, including;

- What are British Values? (Session completed by all years)
- Prevent sessions, including; What is Extremism? (Y7), What is propaganda? (Y7), Right Wing Extremism (Y8), Islamic Extremism (Y9)
- British Value sessions including; What is democracy? (Y7), respecting the law (Y8), toleration (Y8)
- Protected Characteristics – an overview lesson and lessons based on each of the characteristics (All Years)

We will be flexible to adapt our teaching approaches, as appropriate, so as to address specific issues as to become even more relevant to the current issues of extremism and radicalisation.

Our goal is to build mutual respect and understanding and to promote the use of dialogue not violence as a form of conflict resolution. We will achieve this through specific messages and work done in the following areas:

- Assemblies
- Pastoral Support (Mediation / Reflection Work / Restorative Practices)
- Form Time
- Mentoring
- PSHE Curriculum

Prevent duty and IT (read in conjunction with the E-Safety Policy)

Pupils and staff are asked to review the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) annually to confirm that they understand what is acceptable.

Pupils are educated on the safe use of IT as part of the school's tutor and assembly programme as well as through the taught curriculum. Expectations around responsible use of IT is outlined within the Trust and School's Behaviour Policy.

The school adheres to the Trust's E-Safety policy and ensures staff are briefed on expectations and risks at the point of induction.

Recognising the indicators of vulnerability to radicalisation

There is no such thing as a “typical extremist”: those who become involved in extremist actions come from a range of backgrounds and experiences, and most individuals, even those who hold radical views, do not become involved in violent extremist activity.

Pupils may become susceptible to radicalisation through a range of social, personal and environmental factors – it is known that violent extremists exploit vulnerabilities in individuals to drive a wedge between them and their families and communities. It is vital that school staff are able to recognise those vulnerabilities.

Indicators of vulnerability include:

- Identity crisis – the student/pupil distanced from their cultural/religious heritage and experiences discomfort about their place in society.
- Personal crisis – the student/pupil may be experiencing family tensions; a sense of isolation; and low self-esteem; they may have dissociated from their existing family friendship group and become involved with a new and different group of friends; they may be searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging;
- Personal circumstances – migration; local community tensions; and events affecting the student/pupils country or region of origin may contribute to a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy;
- Unmet aspirations – the student/pupil may have perceptions of injustice; a feeling of failure; rejection of civic life;
- Experiences of criminality – which may include involvement with criminal groups, imprisonment, and poor resettlement/reintegration;
- Special educational needs – students/pupils may experience difficulties with social interaction, empathy with others, understanding the consequences of their actions and awareness of the motivations of others

More critical risk factors could include:

- Being in contact with extremist recruiters
- Accessing violent extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element
- Possessing or accessing violent extremist literature
- Using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage
- Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues
- Joining or seeking to join extremist organisations
- Significant changes to appearance and/or behaviour
- Experiencing a high level of social isolation resulting in issues of identity crisis and/or personal crisis.